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Remarks

Claims 1 and 78 have been amended to specify that the cross-linked protein is fragmented.

Summary of Interview

Applicants' representatives thank the Examiners for the courtesy of the telephone interview on August 3, 2006. The Lacroix reference was discussed in detail during the interview. It was agreed that Lacroix does not show ranking three-dimensional conformations and selecting one or more three-dimensional conformations based on the rankings.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

The pending claims are currently rejected as being unpatentable over Lacroix in view of Mitra and further in view of Havel.

Applicants submit that the claims are patentable because, inter alia, none of the references show applying constraint information associated with cross-linking to "rank said three-dimensional conformations and selecting one or more said three-dimensional conformations" to determine the tertiary structure of the protein.

Lacroix shows using cross-linking information to position modules with respect to each other. Lacroix does not show applying cross-linking information to rank and select candidate conformations.

Havel describes using a set of basic geometric constraints to generate structures of two proteins. Havel does not teach or suggest applying distance constraint information to rank and select one or more structures from amongst the generated structures.

Mitra, which is directed to cross-linking reagents, also does not cure the deficiencies of Lacroix and Havel.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons discussed above, the combination of references does not suggest the use of cross-linking and subsequent analysis as claimed to determine a

tertiary structure of a polypeptide. Applicants believe that these arguments fully address all of the issues raised in the Final Office Action. If the Examiner wishes to telephone the Applicants' representative concerning any matter pertaining to this case, the Examiner is cordially invited to do so at the telephone number set out below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. UCSFP001).

Respectfully submitted,

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